



**Director Jim Walker**



**Governor Bob Riley**

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**Published by the Alabama  
Department of  
Homeland Security**

**April 20, 2006  
Volume 3**

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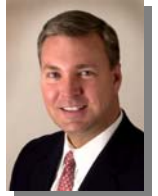
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# *Alabama*

# **DHS QUARTERLY**

## *Message from the Director*

We've all been on a fast train since the start of 2006 and the pace promises to pick up even more as hurricane season approaches. I am aware of the challenges you face working a myriad of homeland security, emergency management, and public safety issues. Thank you for your continued hard work and service to the citizens of Alabama.



As you know, the US Department of Homeland Security provided detailed grant guidance in December 2005 concerning the grant application for FY06. This guidance represented a radical change from the grant procedures of previous years. In January and February 2006, we assembled a representative group of stakeholders from throughout the state and conducted a series of detailed planning sessions. I appreciate the support from the people who participated in this process. As a result, we made significant progress in documenting our strategic plan. The final result was 12 competitive investment justifications that, if approved, will improve our homeland security posture throughout the state.

In early April, two individuals were selected by US DHS to represent our state in a peer review of the FY06 applications from other states throughout the nation. I want to express my thanks to Rusty Russell from Madison County, and Joe Davis from AL DHS for representing Alabama in this most important process. The peer review was the first step in the US DHS evaluation of each state's investment justifications. The next step in the US DHS evaluation process will involve an overlay of the risk factors for each state.

We expect notification in early June concerning the amount of Homeland Security funding to be provided to Alabama for FY06. We will notify you with details as soon as the information is available. Also know that Governor Bob Riley directed me to provide homeland security funds to every county if the amount awarded to us by Federal DHS is sufficient to comply with the Governor's directive.

In the interim, I recommend each County Homeland Security point of contact begin discussions with their stakeholder groups to prioritize their unique requirements should FY06 funds become available. When the funding is announced in June, we will have a compressed timeline to award and deplete the grant.

Thank you again for your hard work and leadership.

Sincerely,

**Jim Walker**

## Full Scale Exercise

Contributed by Henry County Homeland Security Point of Contact, Paul Brown—

On January 21st Henry and Houston Counties staged a full scale exercise that involved the teams that have been funded through the Alabama Department of Homeland Security. These teams were comprised of members of the Dothan Fire Dept. HazMat, Heavy Rescue, Emergency Medical Services; the Dothan Police Dept. and the Houston County Sheriff's Office Bomb Detail Unit which are combined. Participants from Henry County included, the Light Urban Rescue Team comprised of members from Headland Fire & Rescue and the Screamer Vol. Fire Dept.; the countywide S.T.A.R.T unit comprised of members from the Abbeville and Headland Police Depts.; and the Covington County Medium Rescue Team.

The scenario began with a methamphetamine lab bust and possible bombs at the lab near the Dothan Airport. From this site two suspects fled the scene into Henry County, fleeing to the Golden Peanut Plant and wrecking their truck. One suspect was observed going into a building at the rear of the peanut plant. There was an explosion in this building, resulting in damage to the outside wall. Upon a primary search by the START unit, one victim was located on a platform 120 ft above ground; a second, in a pit inside the building. The Henry County Light Urban Rescue Team preformed the platform rescue and the Dothan Heavy Rescue stabilized the wall of the building and preformed the pit rescue. This exercise from start to finish took about 4-5 hours. The exercise involved over 300 people from Houston and Henry counties. All involved in the exercise received positive feedback from IEM.

Link for photos:

<http://www.cityofabbeville.org/police/fema/index.htm>



## Homeland Security Conference

The Alabama Department of Homeland Security hosted the Southeast Region Homeland Security Conference in Birmingham from March 26-29. This conference gave the opportunity for the homeland security directors from 11 southeastern states and two territories to exchange ideas and collaborate on regional issues.

U. S. Department of Homeland Security Undersecretary for Preparedness George Foresman addressed the conference on his vision for preparedness under the new reorganization of USDHS. Also, State Administrative Agency grant management staffs participated in grant training conducted by the USDHS Office of Grants and Training.

Conference highlights also included a visit to the Center for Domestic preparedness in Anniston and a technology demonstration featuring much of the equipment and technology funded by homeland security grants.

## Grants Rundown

FY03 – Closed

FY04 – Closed (An extension has been requested for a few remaining exceptions)

FY05 – Continue spending approved grant; Deadline has been extended to December 31, 2006

FY06 – We expect to hear something from US DHS for the Alabama SHSGP allocation by June 1<sup>st</sup>

If you have questions about grants please contact your Grant Manager:

La'Tonya Stephens	334-956-7262
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## Learning to Communicate

The Alabama Department of Homeland Security in conjunction with the Alabama Emergency Management Agency held a three day meeting of the Alabama Regional Incident Support Units (Regional Commo Vehicles) in Montgomery on April 4th through the 6th. The meeting was held to update equipment in the vehicles as well as conduct training and establishes standard operating plans and procedures. The units will be conducting comprehensive joint training later this year.



## Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan

The Alabama Department of Homeland Security has entered into a contract with Jacksonville State University (JSU) to compile information and create a regional tactical interoperable communications plan for Region 7. This plan is mandated by federal DHS as part of the FY05 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP).

JSU will also create an interoperable communications planning template to be used to establish a tactical plan in each county. ALDHS is also considering additional support for counties to establish a tactical interoperable communications plan in their jurisdiction. More information will be forthcoming in the next couple of months.

## Share Your Info GIS Update

The Alabama Department of Homeland Security (AL DHS) has entered into a contract with the U.S. Space & Rocket Center (GTAC) to assist in an effort to discover new technologies in 3D visualization of state geographic data. In order to leverage existing state asset imagery and infrastructure data, a visualization tool is needed that is affordable and employs the power of the internet based applications in an easy to use visualization tool.

The utilization of a 3D globe interface to retrieve images from a merged global imagery dataset will allow the geographic and terrain data to be displayed using streaming technology. The Department will leverage these technologies to work in a continuing partnership with federal, state, and local partners to transform massive amounts of data into useful knowledge providing the common operational picture needed to protect lives and safeguard Alabama citizens in times of man-made or natural disasters.

The visualization initiative is currently in the developmental stage with the immediate goals of installing system hardware and software and creating cooperative agreements with various agencies that are interested in participating in the initiative. We will provide future updates as this initiative progresses.

## BUFFER ZONE PROTECTION PLAN

In June 2005, the Alabama Department of Homeland Security was awarded a \$1.4 million dollar Buffer Zone Protection Plan Program Grant (BZPP) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Division (PSD).

The purpose of the program is to prevent terrorists from conducting planning activities or launching attacks from the immediate vicinity of Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource (CI/KR) targets. The program is based on the premise that local law enforcement (LLE) agencies and first preventers are on the front lines preventing, defending against, preparing, and mitigating the impacts of potential terrorist attacks.

To date, 26 of the 28 federally authorized sites have submitted the required BZPP and VRPP documents. When approved by State and Federal DHS, each designated LLE will receive a \$50,000 grant to assist in implementing their security plan. The current BZPP Grant will expire December 31, 2006.

Alabama DHS is currently identifying additional sites for anticipated funding in year 2007.

## Major Funding for McDuffie Coal Terminal

The Alabama Department of Homeland Security is providing \$2.5 million for the Alabama State Port Authority's McDuffie Coal Terminal for surveillance equipment. Sub components of the project will include:

- Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV)
- Local Area Network Equipment (LAN)
- Digital Video Recording (DVR)
- Infrastructure
- Lighting
- Power
- Poles

The estimated time frame to complete the plans, specifications, bid, and construction phase is 10 months.

The McDuffie Coal Terminal is susceptible to terrorist attacks for the following reasons:

- Unprotected Perimeter
- Lack of Constant Monitoring/Patrol Along Perimeter and Internal Facilities
- Direct Access from Water
- Direct Access from Land

The Alabama State Port Authority proposes to greatly reduce, if not eliminate, these threats through the proposed surveillance system.

The Port of Mobile handled 18.3 million tons of coal in FY05, accounting for approximately 57% of the Port's revenues in FY05.

## U.S. Department of Homeland Security Briefs

### Ready Kids

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5383>

February 2, 2006--The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and The Advertising Council today launched *Ready Kids*, a family-friendly tool to help parents and teachers educate children, ages 8-12, about emergencies and how they can help their families better prepare. *Ready Kids* is the newest addition to the successful *Ready* campaign, a national public service advertising campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

The *Ready Kids* website at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) features fun games and puzzles as well as age-appropriate, step-by-step instructions on what families can do to better prepare for emergencies and the role kids can play in that effort. In addition to the interactive games for children, the website also has resources for parents and teachers on emergency preparedness and response.

### DHS Announces Six Percent Increase In Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Request

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5494>

February 6, 2006---President Bush's fiscal year 2007 budget request for the Department of Homeland (DHS) Security represents \$42.7 billion in funding, an increase of 6 percent over the previous year. The request reflects recent organizational reforms and program changes to ensure that the department's policies, operations, and structures remain mission-focused and well-aligned to meet evolving threats.

The proposed budget request supports Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff's agenda for a department that is organized around mission, eliminates duplication, and disciplined in risk management. Central to the department's budget are five themes: increasing overall preparedness, and strengthening the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); strengthening border security and reforming immigration; enhancing transportation security through more efficient and secure system controls; improving information sharing; and strengthening the department's organization in order to maximize performance.

### Secretary Chertoff at the National Chemical Security Forum

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5494>

March 21, 2006--Secretary Michael Chertoff addressing the American Chemistry Council in Washington, D.C., "The chemical sector certainly stands as one of the principle areas of infrastructure about which we have to be concerned. If you look back at the whole history of the way al Qaeda has conducted its operations, where possible, they have always tried to leverage our own technology against ourselves. They've turned jets, commercial jets, into weapons. They've tried to use our own chemicals and our own products as means of exploding devices against us. And obviously, one of the areas we have to be concerned about are parts of our infrastructure which house chemicals which could, if properly ignited, create a huge amount of havoc in a populated area -- whether it be because of a large explosion or whether it's because of toxic inhalation.

We have been working with the chemical industry on the issue of sector protection for some considerable period of time. And working together, we have seen a lot of progress. Since September 11th, members of the chemical industry have helped create a new type of risk analysis, one that recognizes that we face a deliberate and intelligent enemy.

After 9/11, many people in the industry, including people in this room, have developed screening methods and best practices in the area of security that help to reduce or to eliminate some of the types of vulnerabilities at the site that could be exploited by terrorists. A lot of companies have taken steps, like investing in new security infrastructure and capabilities, implementing new security procedures, and, in many cases, complying with new rules, all in an effort to protect against this kind of terror threat."



## Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center

During the first quarter of 2006, the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC) completed and deployed Secure Homeland Access and Reporting Environment (SHARE), a virtual office for Alabama's homeland security intelligence fusion cell. SHARE is designed to integrate Alabama's criminal justice, law enforcement communities and private security officials into the statewide homeland security information system (fusion cell). This system provides the following capabilities:

- (1) to flash information from the fusion cell to police officers (via Alabama's Law Enforcement Tactical System or LETS) or private security personnel (via the Portal to Uphold a Secure Homeland, or PUSH);
- (2) for law enforcement officers to report terrorist incident reports vial LETS, and non-law enforcement officials to report the same reports via PUSH;
- (3) for fusion cell personnel to receive, manipulate and augment these reports in a case management system;
- (4) for fusion cell personnel to participate in the Alabama Communications and Operations Portal (AlaCOP) secure Message Center, which includes their establishing open investigation groups or closed alert groups;
- (5) to access and utilize all of the resources of the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) geographical information systems (GIS) portal;
- (6) to access through the Name Master component information on any person touched by the Alabama criminal justice system over the past 10 years; and
- (7) several additional search and information-generation capabilities from new databases that have been added to the AlaCOP/LETS system.

ACJIC sent out an invitation to bid and awarded a purchase order for a system to share real time crime-related information to all law enforcement agencies in the State of Alabama via wireless devices on March 20, 2006. This system, known as the Mobile Access to Criminal Justice Enterprise (MACE), will be designed to provide secure wireless data through mobile devices such as cell phones, lap tops, PDA's, etc., to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, including access to NCIC files and access to the NLETS network. The system will be operational by the end of summer 2006.

The ACJIC Datacenter increased its functionality and security with the establishment of an "instant" system for duplicating data stored in Montgomery on a sister system in Huntsville. ACJIC also installed additional network infrastructure security equipment, including a Cisco MARS Security Incident Manager to enable the monitoring of 12 key security points in the ACJIC network.

Finally, major work continued on ACJIC's 24x7x365 Command Center. Most of the equipment for the Command Center is already on-site at ACJIC headquarters; the construction of the Command Center itself is now underway and should be completed within the next month.

